(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The coal supply position to Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) in the country is not comfortable. As on 14th April, 2008, out of 77 coal based thermal power stations of power utilities, 24 power stations are critical having a coal stock of less than 7 days. The All India coal stock is also low at 10.841 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 Million Tonne.

During 2007-08, the actual Plant Load Factor (PLF) of coal based TPSs in the country was 78.91% against a target of 77.78%. However, according to NTPC, there was loss in PLF of 4 of their power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Vindhyachal to the tune of 4.66%, 0.65%, 0.08% and 0.33% respectively. Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to the power stations is being done at all levels, for optimizing coal supply to power stations from various sources.

The production and supply of gas in the country is also not keeping pace with the growing demand of gas in the country, including for that of power sector. The average gas supply during 2007-08 (April-February 2008) has been 37.06 MMSCMD, against the requirement of 65.67 MMSCMD to operate the stations at 90% PLF.

(c) Following steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power stations:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) Ministry of Coal is being insisted upon to enhance the production of coal in the country.

(iii) Import of coal to meet the shortfall in domestic availability of coal.

(iv) Arranging spot Regasified Liquified Natural Gas (RLNG).

(v) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/ utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

Bringing the Power Sector to International level

†2893. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present shortage of power in the country can be solved by bringing the present power distribution and transmission losses and the quantum of power generation (Plant Load Factor) of power generating projects at international level;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the quantum of availability of additional power to be achieved in the country as a result of bringing the level of both the above power sectors at international level?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The present (April 2007 to March 2008) shortage of power in the country in terms of energy and peak is 72,392 million units (9.8%) and 18,073 MW (16.6%) respectively. The transmission and distribution (T&D) losses in the country during the year 2006-07 were 28.65% (provisional). The T&D losses in developed countries is in the range of 6 to 11%. It has not been possible to segregate technical and commercial losses in the absence of complete energy audit, consumer indexing, availability of IT facilities etc., in most States. As such, the additional energy which can become available as a result of reduction of technical losses in the transmission and distribution system, cannot be estimated at present. Efforts are afoot to put an energy audit system in place in the distribution segment through the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).

Details of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of various thermal (coal, oil and gas) and nuclear power stations in the various countries for the year 2004/2005 are given below:

Country	Plant Load Factor (%) Thermal (Coal, Oil & Gas)	Nuclear
Japan	45.88	68.42
South Korea	59.55	89.27
China	62.72	84.28
Malaysia	26.63	0.00
Thailand	60.91	0.00
Philippines	40.70	0.00
France$	22.01	80.76
Germany$	55.28	92.80
Italy$	44.08	0.00
@USA$	39.32	84.55
UK$	53.30	77.05

Basic Data obtained from 'Electric Power Industry Statistics in Asia'.

$ Basic Data obtained from www.eei.org & Eurostat.

@ Data for the year 2005

All India PLF of thermal (Coal/Lignite) and nuclear power stations for the year 2004-05 was 74.8% and 70.7% respectively. The PLF of coal/lignite, gas & nuclear power stations for the year 2007-08 was of the order of 78.6%, 55% and 46.4% respectively. Thus, the PLF of most of the thermal power stations is comparable with if not better than the PLF of similar stations of other countries. The gas based power stations and nuclear power stations in the country are, however, presently constrained in achieving higher PLF due to inadequate availability of fuel. The additional energy which could become available from the gas based stations during the year 2007-08 in case they were able to operate at 90% PLF, is estimated to be about 31 Billion Units.